

## ADOPTEE MET BLOOD BROTHERS

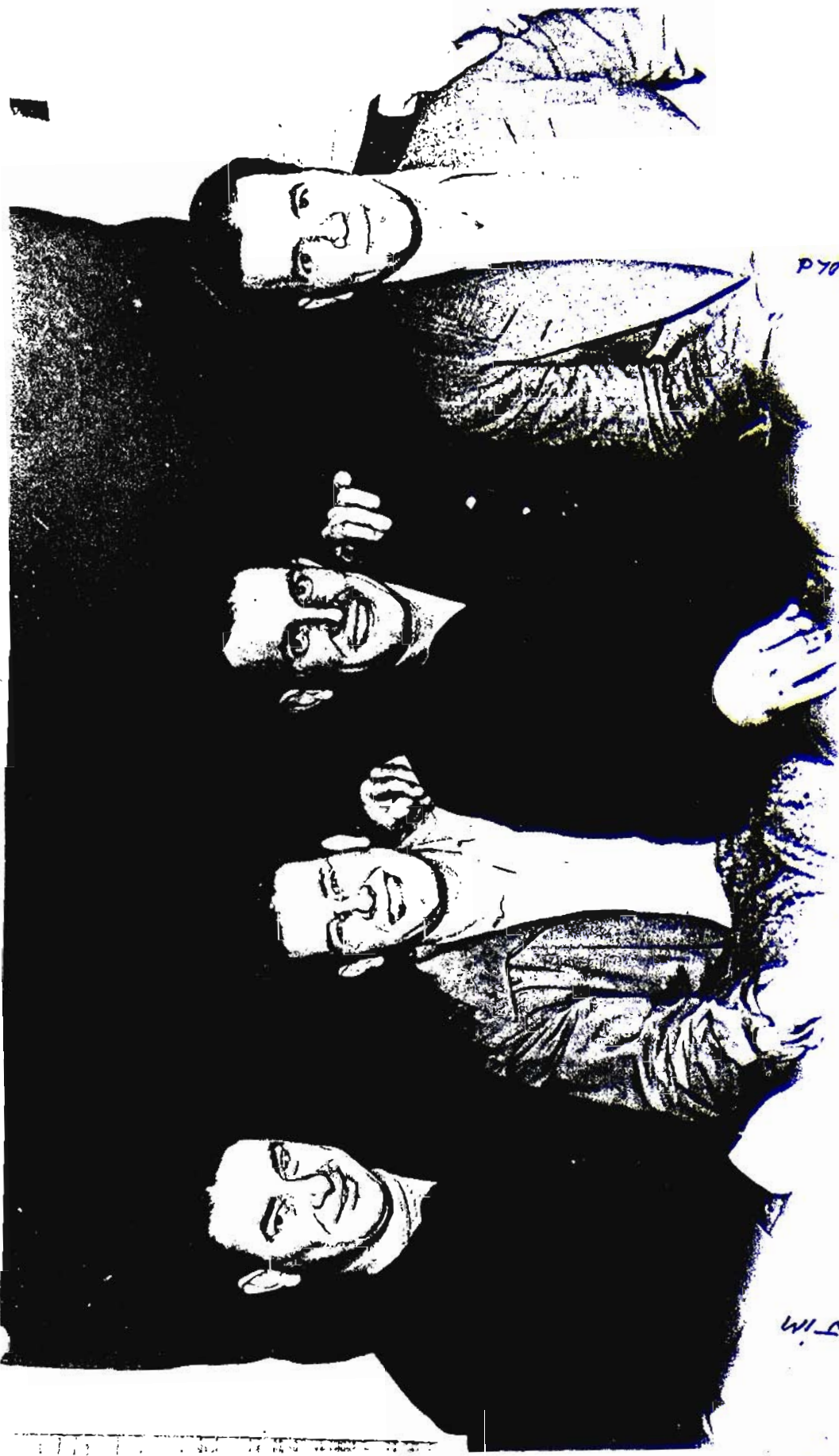
### Wife finds long Dunham line

Stories of adoptees finding their biological families provide one of the most interesting & popular themes on the talk show circuit. John Paul Stewart (b. 1918, as a Dunham), now of Puryear, TN, may have been more fortunate than most adoptees; evidently he grew up knowing his family background & the story of his adoption, though we aren't positive about this. Born in Matthews, MO to John Franklin & Katie (Sizemore) Dunham, John Paul had the misfortune to lose his mother at the time of his birth. Franklin Dunham, the father, (generally known by his middle name) had even more than the loss of his wife to deal with at this point. He already had 3 small sons (Jim, Millard & Harold) to care for, & so he allowed a couple by the name of Stewart to adopt the newborn. Later Franklin Dunham (1884-1949) remarried & had 3 more children. Eventually he moved to Flint, MI, where he was on the police force. Only once were all 4 full brothers together, & that was in Flint, shortly before their father's death -- at which time the wonderful photo on page 2 was made.

Details of this story were provided by Sue C. Stewart, John Paul's wife, who has been interested in genealogy since 1991. From Sharon Atkins, of Roscoe, IL, Sue received a Descendancy Chart which takes the family line back to a Joseph Dunham (b. 1730) & Mary Claypool. At this time we can't identify this Joseph (There are 49 of them in our Index, but no Mary Claypool) & we don't know the area where this couple lived. Generations between Joseph (as #1) & Franklin (1884-1949) (as # 6) are: Henry 2, Richard 3, John S. 4, James 5. Many thanks to Sue for supplying this information.

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HAROLD

MILLARD

JOHN

WILLIAM

THIS PICT MADE WITH JOHN & 3 BROS.  
IN FLINT MICH. ABOUT 1949 JUST BEFORE  
DEATH OF FRANK DUNHAM, (JOHN'S REAL  
FATHER). THE ONLY TIME ALL BOYS WERE  
TOGETHER



PLEASE KEEP IT A SECRET! The inundation with letters of inquiry to DD continues unabated, & since we certainly don't do any advertising, we can only conclude that those on the DD mailing list are spreading the word. If so - PLEASE, PLEASE stop! If for some reason you have to mention the newsletter, explain that anyone making inquiry should enclose a self-addressed envelope with 55 cents postage on it; otherwise we cannot respond. Every month we run off more copies of the issue than we did the month before, & it just can't go on. The only ready solutions seem to be to have fewer issues per year, or to limit circulation to those who have provided materials recently --- One other possible solution may be appearing on the horizon, & we'll discuss that in an upcoming issue.

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## Q U E R I E S

JANE C. EDMUNDSON, 2 Queen's Lane, Darien, CT 06820: Searching for the parents of Van Rensselaer (V. R.) Dunham, born 1807 NY State. Their names are probably Archibald Rolland Dunham & Sophia Torrey, dau. of John Torrey & Thurza/Theresa Barnes, who lived in Chautauqua Co. & Orleans Co., NY. V.R. had a brother (probably) named Archibald, with whom he owned land in Barre, Orleans, NY in 1830; & he married Ora Corbin, dau. of Winthrop & Roxanna (Warren) Corbin, both b. Windham Co CT. V. R. & the Corbins moved to Hanover, Chautauqua, NY in the 1830s & to Lorain Co., OH in the 1840s. V. R. & Ora went to Wisconsin before 1850 & were in Waukesha & LaCrosse Co's, WI by 1854. He returned to Ohio, where he died after 1874. They had a dau. who became an M.D. in Ohio ca. 1850, but her name is unknown.

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APRIL DUNHAM, 587 Bass Lane, Corvallis, MT 59828: Looking for information on Luther G. Dunham, b. 1814 Tioga, Spencer, NY. He married Mary Jane Beard in 1833. Unable to find any brothers, sisters or parents. Have gone through the 1820 census without success; did find his name on an 1850 Union Twp, Allen Co., IA microfilm. Any information much appreciated.

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INDIVIDUALS IN THE ABOVE QUERIES HAVE NOT BEEN LOCATED IN OUR INDEX.

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JOYCE RIEDLIN, RR # 3, Box 150, Stewartstown, PA 17363: GGG grandparents were Sarah Dunham (b. 1798 PA) & Joseph Coleman (1797 PA/ 1858) who were married in Brown Co., OH in 1818. Children, all born in Warren Co., OH 1819-1837: Clarissa D., Louisa, Oliver D., Jefferson C., Margaret, Sarah J., Joseph E., & twins Marion & Hannah Coleman. Sarah Dunham Coleman may have been dau. of Mordecai Dunham. Surnames connected with this family are: McDonough, Vail, Burkton, Reves, Collins, Wilmer, Chris & Rees. Any help much appreciated.

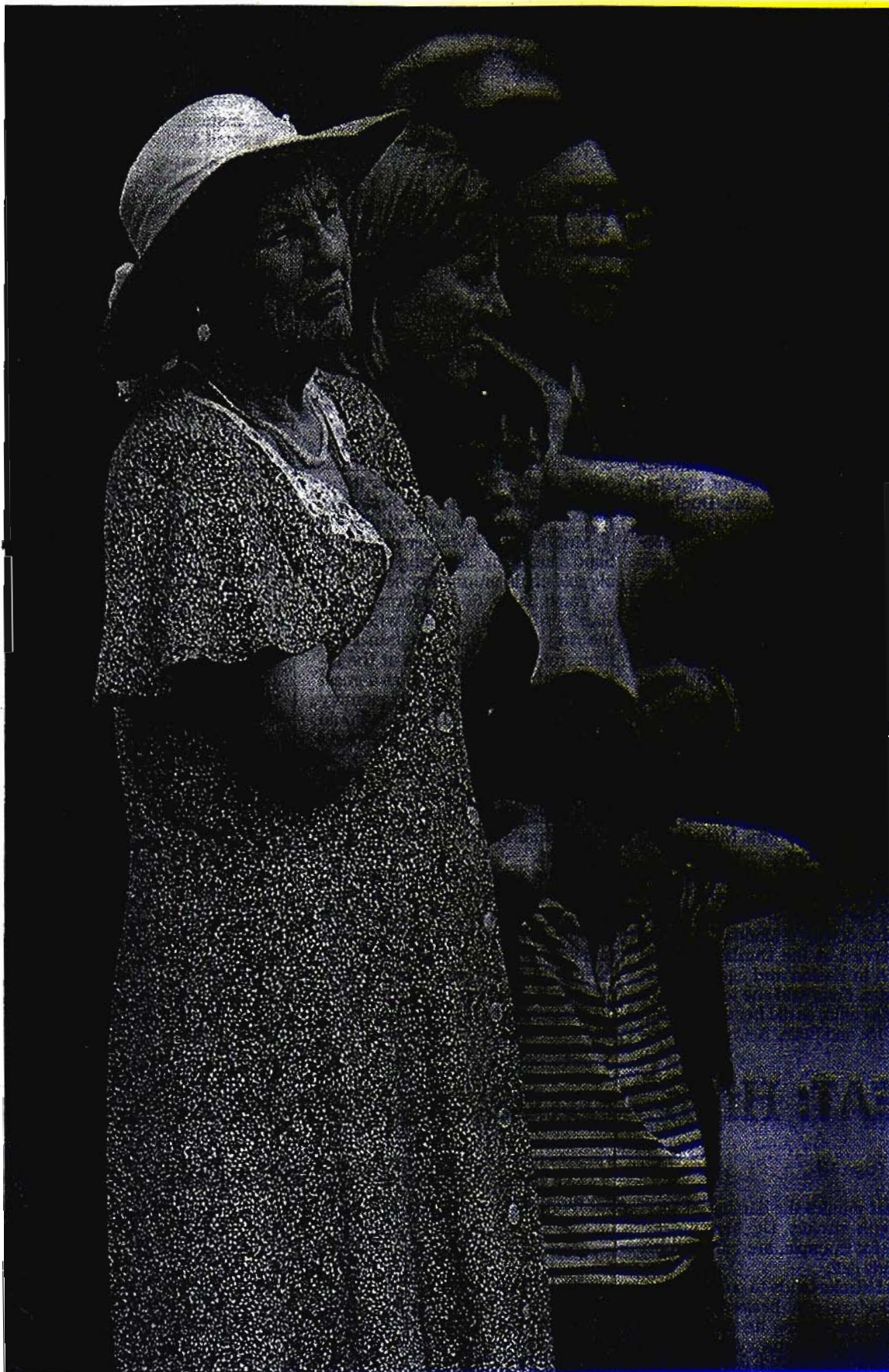
INITIAL RESPONSE; Dunham Index shows a Joshua Coleman who married a Sarah Dunham (D-1731256). This Sarah's line shows as: John 1, Joseph 2, Nathaniel 3(questioned), Nathaniel 4, Nathaniel 5, Isaac 6. Sarah & Joshua Coleman's children: Isaac (an engineer on the city reservoir, NYC); Lucy; Albertus; & Isaiah. Might there be a tie-in here?

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ABOUT PAGES 4 & 5: Originally appearing in THE MARYLAND SUN on August 2, 1995 & sent to DD by Mrs. George D. Hallgren, Sr., Bel Air, MD, is this significant post script to our Dec. 1994 & June 1995 articles pertaining to Capt. John R. Dunham, the flier whose plane was downed in 1952.



## SAD FAREWELL, 43 YEARS LATER



MICHAEL LUTZKY/SUN STAFF PHOTO

Mary Dunham Nichols and her family paid their last respects to Capt. John R. Dunham, whose whereabouts were hidden by the Soviets for 40 years after his plane was shot down in 1952. Mrs. Nichols was joined at Arlington National Cemetery by her daughter, Suzanne Dunham Fong, Mrs. Fong's sons Colin and Jonathan, her husband, Bobby, and Mrs. Nichols' husband, Donald. (Article. 2B)

*Handwritten note:*  
Suzanne Fong  
4-1995



## MARYLAND/REGION

# Dunham family finally gets to say goodbye

## Arlington honors end 40-year puzzle

By Robert A. Erlandson  
Sun Staff Writer

ARLINGTON, Va. — A giant B-52 bomber swept overhead in salute. Three rifle volleys crackled across the silence of the sun-drenched Gardens of Stone. A bugler sounded taps. Capt. John Robertson Dunham was buried at last in his native soil with full military honors.

The funeral in Arlington National Cemetery before more than 200 relatives, Naval Academy classmates, friends and well-wishers contrasted sharply with the Air Force officer's first funeral, a lonely affair in October 1952 on remote Yuri, a wind-swept islet in the Russian-occupied Kurils, north of Japan.

He was buried then — with respect, according to reports — by Russian border guards who had pulled his body from the icy Pacific, near Hokkaido Island, after a Soviet fighter plane shot down his RB-29 photo-reconnaissance plane. None of his seven crew mates was found.

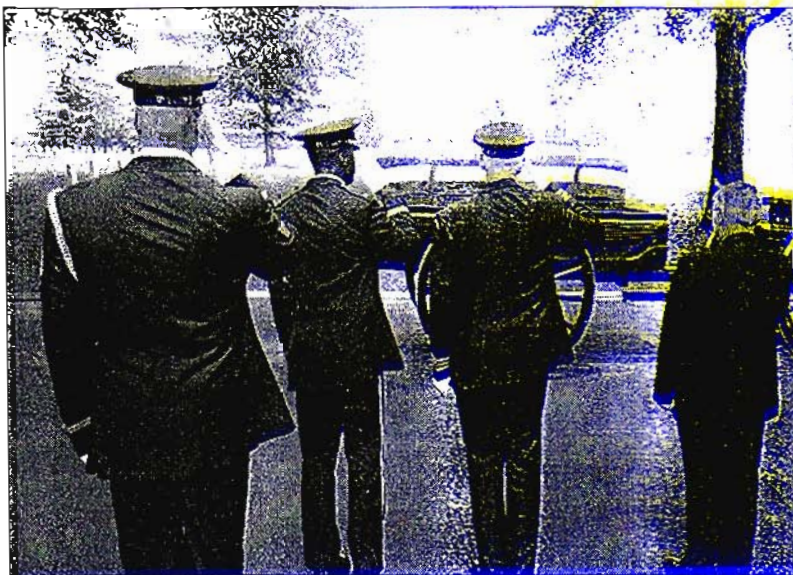
Yesterday's funeral had the full panoply of a procession from the Fort Myer Chapel to the gravesite behind an Air Force band and honor guard and six black horses pulling the flag-draped coffin on a caisson.

Yet at its heart it remained an intensely personal affair for those involved because the 4-decade-old mystery of Captain Dunham, the plane's navigator, was resolved.

"We gather to give thanks that he is with us again, after more than 40 years," intoned retired Air Force Chaplain Lt. Col. Eric S. Renne Sr.

Chaplain Renne conducted a memorial service at Arlington in 1991 for Captain Dunham, long before the chain of events began that led to the recovery of the flier's remains in September. He said he asked to participate yesterday "because this is such an unusual case."

Captain Dunham's 1991 memori-



MICHAEL LUTZ/SUN STAFF PHOTO

Servicemen salute the flag-draped coffin of Capt. John R. Dunham.

al stone was buried with him and Oct. 7 — the 43rd anniversary of the shoot-down — the families of the still-missing crewmen will dedicate a memorial to them at Arlington.

"This brings us to closure," said Roy Dunham, 70, of Ashland, Ky., the older brother who was the last relative to see John Dunham alive, in Japan weeks before the fateful flight. "The days we spent together hold memories," said Mr. Dunham, who had been hospitalized in Japan and who learned on the day his hospital ship reached San Francisco that the plane was missing.

Mr. Dunham sat near his brother's widow, Mary Dunham Nichols, 69, of Rodgers Forge, closing the circle. It was just hours after John Dunham's graduation from the Naval Academy in June 1950 that Roy was best man in the Academy Chapel as his brother married the former Mary Gordon Crapster. The Korean War began exactly three weeks later.

"It's closure. It's a great sigh of relief to know that he's buried, to have it completed," Mrs. Nichols said after the ceremony.

"It's hard to say how I feel," said Suzanne Dunham Fong, who was 6 weeks old when her father's plane was shot down. At Monday's memorial service at the Dunham family church in Easton and again yesterday, Mrs. Fong said she touched her father's coffin, as did her sons, Jonathan, 13, and Collin, 5. Captain Dun-

ham's grandsons.

"I told them that he had died for his country and they should be proud of him," Mrs. Fong said. "My older son has cried a lot about this; the younger one is more interested in the airplanes. It was important for them to touch the coffin."

The smooth wood was her first physical contact with the father she never knew, Mrs. Fong said. "I just had to. I feel whole for the first time. It feels good to know where he is."

Mrs. Nichols wore her dead husband's academy class ring on a double gold chain around her neck.

Vasili Saiko, 66, the former Russian border guard sailor who kept the ring after pulling Captain Dunham from the water, was at the funeral with his wife, Luba, as a guest of the family. "I kept it as a memory of the event and I thought I would give it back one day," he said through an interpreter.

"Mr. Saiko was the linchpin that allowed my dad to come home. We never thought we'd ever see this and without him we wouldn't have," Mrs. Fong said.

"It was a sad ceremony, but I'm happy that he finally rests in his native land," said Mr. Saiko, a short, stocky man with iron-gray hair who said he was a riverboat captain after leaving the border guards. "The main difference is that the political situation was real bad between our two countries then and is not now."